



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

May - August 1996

Volume 18, No. 2

Address

One of the things that we have to go through every quarter involves mailing the QCWA Journal and then awaiting the onslaught of communications from the Post Office concerning their inability to deliver a whole host of the Journals. Like \$60 to \$100 a quarter just to 'buy back' a notice telling us that the party is "temporarily away" or "forwarding address has expired" or "unknown at this address" and so on. Mostly the first "temporarily away" notice is what we see. I just think this is an unneeded expense.

We have a number of people that are "snowbirds" and they let us know when they are going South or North and everything works very well. However we have what I think is a large group who never make any notification and so we pay to find out that they are not there but we do not know, for certain, where they are.

There was a day when this Post Office notification was helpful and addresses could be corrected, but not anymore. Even if the party leaves a forwarding address, the limit of time on the forwarding notice is apparently not adequate to handle a summer at their northern home. So, perhaps the time has come to consider not asking for "Address Correction Requested" on mailing materials that are sent out, such as the Journal. In that event, the Journal would then be destroyed and the member would not receive the mailing at all.

If you have some of these people in your Chapter, would you remind them to let us know when they are going to move and to where? Perhaps a little effort will help this situation for us at Headquarters and decrease this unnecessary expense.

Election 1996

The election is over and here are the results. You may have heard the names over the air, but here is the first printed report.

President	Jack Kelleher, W4ZC
V Pres	Gary Harrison, WA0RWS
Sect	John Swafford, W4HU
Treas	Duke Knief, W2YTO

Directors:			
Walt Brink	W3WPY	Bob Buus	W20D
Charles Dorian	W3JPT	John Edel	K9LBZ
Bob Korfage	W7CHI	Harry Lewis	W7JWJ
Bill McGrannahan	K0ORB	Richard Stalls	K4KY0
Croft Taylor	VE3CT	Jack Troster	W6ISQ

This means we have a good deal of new 'blood' on the Board and it should be very interesting. Six new people means a lot of new ideas

and perhaps some improvement on some older thoughts. Of these, ten have e-mail addresses and we will publish those in the next issue of the QCWA Journal. This means that we can communicate a lot faster and a lot cheaper between the majority of the members of the Board of Directors. Now to get the rest of them on line!

Anyway, keep in touch with them and let them know your thoughts. They are the ones who can help get programs improved and/or developed for the membership. Shortly after the Ottawa Board meeting we will have new pictures on the home page of all these new directors/officers.

By the way .. are you going to join us at Ottawa? The exchange rate is great up there, they have really worked to have some superb programs and entertainment and it again promises to be a memorable affair. Come meet the new Board officers and directors.

The dates for Ottawa are October 5th and 6th and an application or reservation form is in the last Journal and there will be one in the next Journal which is being completed as I put this together.

Ballots

I just have to relate some experiences that recently took place in the ballot process. That process is completed and we have some new Directors and Officers on the Board of Directors. The return of ballots is disappointing in that we are a little over 3000 out of some 10,000 that were mailed out to the members. Some have complained that they did not have much of a choice. That may be true, but at the same time you have no idea how difficult it is to secure candidates to run for a position. This is a financial commitment on their part and we make every effort to secure candidates and I think our membership should support those that are running by at least returning a ballot. By the way, those that are somewhat disgruntled about the numbers, where were you when we were looking for candidates?

Speaking of returning a ballot, there are some interesting things that have taken place. Would you believe that in several instances we received ballots with two ".01 cent" stamps, placed on the card UPSIDE down so that it would appear to be two ".10 cent" stamps. The PO caught this and so we paid the additional to have it returned. In another instance we received cards with already canceled .20 cent stamps glued onto the card. Those were also returned and we paid the additional postage. A number were returned with NO postage whatsoever and I even saw one that had a red QCWA stamp placed on the card.

Funny thing, several years ago we decided to pay the return postage in an attempt to increase the number of ballots. There was no difference in the total returned.



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

(Ballot Contd)

It is now a bit later and the balloting is completed. A total of 3465 ballots were counted. 104 ballots were invalidated for one reason or another. Two more years and we will again go through this process and I hope more will participate. I think it is a disgrace that so few, about 1/3, take the responsibility of voting, but then look at the national averages. Just because the national average is bad, why do we have to lower ourselves and follow their actions ?

Applications

Some time back, in fact the last mailing of the HLR, I enclosed a new application and a listing of all the Chapters that we have listed and active.

One request. Please, destroy your old applications and try to keep them out of the path to Headquarters. If you need some more either make a copy from the Journal, or drop me a line and I will mail some to you. We also have a limited supply of Information booklets based upon some writing by Leland Smith, W5KL, with a topic of "WHY" as regards membership in QCWA. Leland says "...QCWA membership is not for everyone ..." and then goes on to say "...but it does appeal to some amateurs who want to be identified with and associate with some of the best known, respected, proficient and dedicated amateurs in the world.". How true.

One of the common threads of talk from potential new members is "...I have waited all this time to join QCWA ...", so take a look around and invite some of those eligible to express their pride at being licensed at least 25 years. Not many can say that. Those that can, need to be invited to join you and the organization. So many groups complain about their decreasing membership, yet in other communications I hear about growth taking place in some of our Chapters. What is the difference ? Well, one difference is that the active Chapter has a newsletter which goes out to all the members on a regular basis. Some are very small and some have several pages. The important thing is that they are sent and keep everyone up to date on activities. Another difference is a regular meeting schedule with some good entertainment at each meeting. Wives enjoy this as well as husbands and it really puts a polish on the meeting event. Thirdly, try to get involved as a group on some project. Maybe help with disposal of gear from a SK for the surviving member of the family. Perhaps get involved in a VE program, or better yet, how about a program to teach amateur radio and include some practical experiences for these new amateurs-to-be ? Right now we have an increase in Chapter newsletters and they are wonderful. Keep it up.

Blind

Once again, do you have knowledge of any sight-impaired members of QCWA ? Do they receive the blind cassette tape ? If the answers are "yes" and "no" to these questions, why don't they receive the tape ? It costs nothing, it is well done and comes out shortly after the Journal so they can enjoy the magazine. All we need is the notification that

they would like to receive it.

Send the notification to Blanche Randles, W4GXZ, or to us at Headquarters and we will see that their name is added to the list for service. Currently Blanche is at their summer place and the address is : HCR 32, Box 591, Stoddard NH 03464. That should be good until about October 1st.

Blanche and I have talked about this many times and both of us are certain that we are missing a number of our members who would enjoy these tapes.

Vanity Call Signs

We have, for a period of time, been rather busy with looking up the early licensing listings in the Callbooks. We do have a pretty complete set of them going back into the early 1900s, the original being from the Department of Commerce in 1915, and they have been used pretty heavily in anticipation of the Vanity Call Sign.

I just want to make a couple remarks about those that we have heard about.

The first one was an e-mail from George Bradley, K5IA, who sent us a change of call from NT4D to the K5IA. Then, we received the second one from Alan Gray, now W3BV, having changed from his old call W3VL. Alan wrote that the call W3BV goes back to his grandfather in 1912 and 1915 and he has pictures of the original station. Then I received the third one from Gregory Haas who changed from KF4FO to W5ZNT, his original call.

Since those first few I have mentioned we have had a continuous stream of messages telling us to change their calls and everybody is elated that this all was able to be accomplished. Just remember that QCWA had a big hand in getting this included in the Vanity program.

We are also seeing a fair number of amateurs coming back into the hobby, after being out for a number of years. We have researched the dates of their calls and sent applications and brochures to them. Some of them have used the Home page, sent us an electronic application and become a member in that fashion.

Banner Stand

Jean Giesler, Jr., W4TYU, Secretary of Chapter 60 recently wrote me about his construction of a stand for the Chapter banner. This is always a problem at conventions and at various restaurants and other events. Jean solved the problem utilizing plastic PVC pipe, grade 315. His total cost was \$3.50 and it is such a size that the whole assembly is mailable if need be.

He used 1/2 " PVC pipe, two elbows and two tees. He cut two pieces of



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

The New Board of Directors

(Stand Contd)

1/2" pipe 54" long. Then he cut four pieces 34" long. No glue is needed. He did contemplate an optional stand for floor mounting using metal floor flanges with the plastic pipe inserting into the flanges.

You create a frame around the Banner. The two 54" pieces run horizontally above and below the banner area. The top piece has an elbow on each end and that is then joined to the 34" piece. The end of the 34" piece has a "T" on the end, and the other 54" piece is placed horizontally, creating a frame around the banner. The remaining two 34" pieces then extend downward from the bottom of the "T" to form the legs. Jean makes mention that you might like to use a little larger size pipe with 3/4" for a sturdier support.

Thanks Jean for sharing this with us. Let us now how it works for the rest of the Chapter people.

From Lew McCoy, W1ICP

After so many years on the QCWA Board you would think I would be stepping down. However, I have been appointed Chairman of the Finance Committee, a position that I held for many years before becoming president. I am only telling you all this because I don't want you to think you have gotten rid of me—yet.

All joking aside, working for QCWA all these years has truly been a labor of love. I have made many, many friends and will enjoy continuing those relationships.

You have a very fine person taking over as President. Jack Kelleher has had many years of working on the QCWA Board and has always, without exception, done an outstanding job. QCWA is in fine shape and we all look forward to the coming years. We, and I do mean all QCWA members, can point with great pride to our scholarship fund which has now grown to over \$150,000 in principal. That number means that we can give at least 14 scholarships, with an increase in that number, as the principal grows. So in closing, I say to all you QCWA members—take a big bow!!

A Reminder

In the Fall of 1997 we will hold our 50th anniversary Convention in Kansas City. Mark your calendar and begin to plan for that event. These good people have held conventions before and really put on a great event.

Then in the Fall of 1998 our Convention will be in Palm Springs, CA. This group hosts an event each Spring which attracts several hundred people from the S. California area and it is very well done. Again, mark your calendar for this one also.

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	Croft Taylor, VE3CT 3 Weatherly Dr Kanata ON Canada K2W1A3	613-839-3336
	Jack Troster, W6ISQ 82 Belbrook Way Atherton, CA 94027	415-854-3939

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